

## BRIEF HISTORY OF JOHN CROOK

Dan Crook, the son of Thomas and Nancy Welch Crook, who was born 12 June 1801, in Turton, Lancashire, England, was married to Margaret Kay. To this union was born-----

Betsey - 11 June 1825

Alice - 25 May 1829

John - 11 Oct. 1831

Ann - 19 July 1834 (died under 1 year)

Margaret Kay, Dan's Wife died 20 March 1846, before the family left England to come to America.

Dan Crook with his Childfen left old England 1 January 1851. They sailed on the ship "Hellen" with 475 passengers.

After landing in America, they settled in Council Bluffs as converts to the Gospel. Council Bluffs was an outfitting place to prepare for crossing the plains to Utah. Dan's greatest desire was to get to Utah and he worked hard fitting wagons. Being a Wheelwright his services were in great demand. He was denied twice the opportunity to go to Utah. He became very discouraged and crestfallen. He became ill in July 1852 and on August 3rd he passed away and was buried about  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile north of Ranesville or Council Bluffs. His son John and Edmond Kay dug the grave and buried him by themselves, the people were very bitter toward the Later-Day-Saints and would give no assistance.

Betsey Crook married Edmond Kay and stayed in Council Bluffs where she died August 24, 1855.

Alice Crook married Frank Stoddard who joined the Mormon Battalion and went to California. After the Battalion was discharged, Frank Stoddard came to Utah but Alice stayed in Council Bluffs and later married Thomas Pilling. Frank Stoddard married a Utah Woman and settled in Uintah, Weber County, Utah.

John Crook remained in Council Bluffs and worked for Mr. Voorhees, a Merchant for \$10.00 and Board, he also hired out to J. B. Stutzman, working his team on shares. He later went into the ice business with his brother-in-law, while peddling ice he met Mary Giles who was working for B. R. Pegrams, as a house hold servant. Thus he became acquainted with the Giles family and crossed the plains with them in the E. B. Tripps Company. They left Council Bluffs about the first of June 1856.

The trip across the plains was a hazardous business, and twice the Company was held up on account of herds of Buffalo crossing their path to get to water. William Giles lost two of his cows when the cattle stampeded and were mixed with the Buffalo.

The Company arrived in Salt Lake City about noon 15 August 1856. After resting a day or two, they left Salt Lake City for Provo, a two day journey.

John Crook married Mary Giles, Daughter of William Giles and Sarah Huskinson on 6 September 1856. Thus commenced the John Crook family in Utah. They made their home in Provo for 2 or 3 years, working at farming, where John William was born. In 1859 they moved to Provo Valley and located in what they called Heber. During the next few years John Crook and his wife took an active part in pioneering the valley. They were always in the front ranks socially, religiously and temperaly. They had nine children.

John led the chior for many years and he established the Home Theater Group. Many plays were produced under his able management. His wife died 13 September 1888. He passed away 31 March 1921 at the age of 90.